



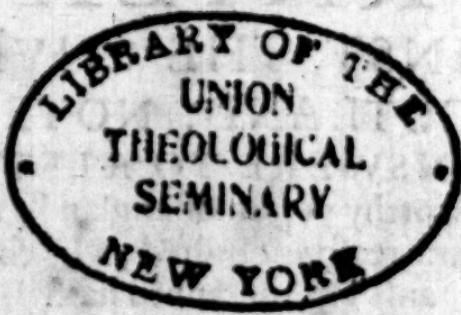
D. BANCROFTS RASHNES
IN RAYLING
AGAINST THE CHVRCH
OF SCOTLAND, NOTED IN
AN ANSWERE TO A LETTER
of a worthy person of England, and
some reasons rendred; why the
answere thereunto hath
not hitherto come
foorth.

*By I. D. a brother of the sayd
Church of Scotland.*

EX MVLTIS PAVCA.



AT EDINBURGH
PRINTED BY ROBERT VVAL
DE-GRAVE. ANNO. 1590.





A PROOFE OF D. BAN- CROFTS RASHNES A. GAINST THE CHVRCH OF SCOTLAND.



EN of anie sound iudgemente (good Sir) that hard or read that declamation made at Paules Crosse the 9. of Februarie, 1588. in time of Parliament, by RICHARD

BANCROFT, D. of Diuinity, and chaplaine, &c, (as he will needs be styled) and afterward enlarged by him, and set forth in print, may easily perceiue that (small regard had to godly edifyng, by the right cutting of that worthy text of Scripture.

Believe not enerie Spirits, &c. 1. I O H N. 4.
1. which then hee tooke to entreate) he made the whol drift of his speach, to serue his intended turne, for a bitter inuention against the godlie brethren of Englande, who vrge Reformation of that Churche, and chiefly, the remoouing of that heauie

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bondage of Antichristian gouernment by
loftie Lordes, wrongfully called Bishops,
(an hurtfull relicke of Romish confusion)
& restoring in the place thereof, the ioynt
administration of Christian Discipline by
the Ministers and Elders of the Churche,
which is most clearely prooued by them
and others, to be established by the word
of G o d, to continue to the comming of
the Lord Iesus Christ: whose godly ende-
uours, when for a while he hath laboured
to improoue, after his maner, hee leaueth
the matter in question at last altogeather,
and setteth himself against theyr persons,
and trauaileth with tooth and naile (as
they say) to bring them into extreame ha-
tred with the supreme Magistrate, as men
who by this their new gouernment (so it
pleaseth him to speake of it) intend no les-
matter then hie Treason and rebellion, by
ouerthrowing her Majesties authority in
Ecclesiasticall causes, and highly deroga-
ting thereby, to her supreamacie in that
case, to the apparant indangering of her
person and state in the end, except good
order bee taken with the matter in time:
Then the which, what can bee more odi-
ously affirmed, and more woorthy of ex-
treame

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treme punishment, if it be true.

But how doth he prooue all this geare
I pray you? euen from his owne feare for-
sooth, which riseth vpon his falsly conie-
ctured suspicions, without al groundes of
truth, to wit, that as outlandish meanes &
practises haue bene traitorous and rebel-
lious, in erecting and establishing of this
new gouernement (as he speaketh) so hee
feareth, that they, who so exactly, and
with such hoat persuit, follow the outlan-
dish preceptes in this case, will fall to the
same meanes in England, pag. of his book
83.84. and least his credite should come
in question, for abusing his auditors with
vntruthes in this matter, he wil not seeme
to speake any thing without his warrand:
and therefore finding nothing to charge
the good breethren at hoame withall in
this case: (such is the mercy of G o d to-
ward them, that the very aduersarie him-
selfe, seeking matter of accusation against
them, can finde no hole in their coat, doe
his best, but by his vnwilling silence, is
compelled, in a manner, to iustifie their
dewtifull modestie, in seeking Reformati-
on hitherto.) Not being able then I say,
to finde any thing against the brethren of

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Englande in this case (for otherwise they shoulde haue heard of it, ye may bee sure) he raungeth abroad, and as a stranger curios in an other Commonweale, making choise, especially of Scotland, hee setteth vpon it with al his maine, assuring himselfe of sure proof of his purpose from thence, Pag. 72. In doing whereof, as he most outrageously vpbraideth our whole Ministrie, & Christian Discipline of our church, with a cartful of calumneis, ytered against them both: So he cannot refrain himselfe from most reprochfull flaundering of the K. Majestie himselfe, as after shal be seen, and disdaimeful contemning of the whole inhabitants of the land. A perillous practise (whose Chaplaine so euer hee be) against the happie amitie between the two Realmes, especially now, in these daungerous daies, wherein our common peace is so highly indangered, aswel by the domeстicque male-contens and conspirators at home, as by the forraine detected enemy abroad: good men in the meane time pillers, as it were, and chiefe intetainers thereof, daily waxing fewer and fewer in both the lands.

Neuerthelesse, so egar is the man in the matter,

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matter, that before hee will not bring his
stick to the fire, he will not spare to speake
euil, euen, of those things which he know-
eth not, and verye boldelye, though most
rashly, builde vppe an vglie heape of most
slanderous accusations against our sayde
Church, and that vpon the false testimo-
nies of the friuelous reports of other me,
and chiefly of two, the very bare naming
of whom, where they are knowne, is suffi-
cient ynoch of it selfe, to discredit what-
soeuer is alleadged in their names: For as
touching the former of them, corruptlie
and falslie called Bishop of S. Androis, it ^{P. Adamson}
is much better that the legend of his leud
life bee buried in eternall obliuion, then
that Christian eares should bee polluted
with the vnsauorie mention thereof. Al-
though it is not hard to gesse, the whole
course of his proceedings (as a Lyon may
bee knownen by his clawes) by one spe-
ciall action. For what will that man be a-
shamed to doe, that durst father his owne
forgerie vpon the Lords lieutenant the
K. Majestie himselfe, and that in a matter
of no lesse importance, then the declarati-
on of the meaning of some acts of Parlia-
ment, which howbeit it was but his own

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declaration (as his Majestie hath plainlye witnessed by his own hand writ yet extant to be seene) and not the Kings. Yet durst he bee bolde to giue it out in the Kinges name, as though, hee had beene the verie vndouted author therof: If this be not to play the falsarie forger, & that in the hiest degree, let the Chaplain himself be judge.

But here hee will replie, that this is but our Ministers affirmation (who saith hee, page 75. dare say what they list.) Otherwise, as the declaration is the Kings: so, as for the King, he is not altered. *Ictus pectoris sapit, &c.* Whereby he will not only haue that counterfeit and bastard declaration bound on the Kinges backe, whether he will or not: But before it shall not be so, he dare be bold, in the same page aboue cited, to charge his Majestie with deepe dissimulation, while in effect, he affirmeth, that howbeit the king by his writing, speaking, and actions, would seeme to approoue the present exercise of that same discipline, which so flatly is condemned in that foresaid declaration: yet hee doth not approoue it in hart, because (saith the Chaplaine) hee is not altered, to wit, from that thing which he would haue him

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to haue set downe in that declaration, flat contrary to his present practise, allowing it after al the waies foresaid. In the which saying, hee necessarily dooth implie deepe dissimulation to be in his Majestie, while hee will haue him to condemne that in heart, which in deed so manifestly he doth allow: let it be judged then, whether it be our ministers that speak as they list, or he.

It had become his person and place to haue spoken & written, at the least, more reuerently of his Majestie, how vncharitable so euer hee had judged of him in his mind: yea, charitie would haue made him thinke with himselfe (if there had beene a sponke thereof within him) that nowe being of perfect age, and yeres of discretion, he is christianlie moued in singlenesse of hart, by his auuthority to approue that christian discipline, which nowe he cleerely seeth to be so well warranted by the worde of God, which perhaps in his minority & none age (being misled by crafty men) he did not so perfittly vnderstand. But let not his maiestie, nor any prince, looke for any better dealing at the handes of any of his coat, when their honor, & these mens profites come into their way to be ballanced.

But

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But God be praised, it hath pleased his
maiestie, not to winke at this malapert ca-
lumny, but to note it with a coale, to their
confusion that allowed of that lye, while
by his owne hande writ, set downe in the
margent of BANCROFTS book, page fore-
said, just ouer aboue these his most impu-
dent assertions. For the K. he is not alte.
,, red: *Ictus Piscator sapit.* his crown & their
,, soueraignty will not agree together, most
plainely hee declareth the singlenes of his
hart in this behalfe, flat contrary to these im-
pudent assertions in the words following.

MY SPEAKING, VV RITING, AND
ACTIONS, VVERE AND ARE EVER
ONE, VVITHOVT DISSEMBLING,
OR BEARING UP AT ANY TIME,
VVHATEVER I THOUGHT.

Whereby, as he purgeth him selfe of al
dissembling in times past, so hee protest-
eth, that his speaking, writing, and actions
in approuing the present exercise of Disci-
pline, are fully agreeing to his thought &
minde, and therefore hee concludeth in
these wordes following.

Ergo C ASTS TH E LIBEL, nequid aperire.

Which is as much to say, as, wherefore
the D. assertions are vntrue, to vse no
rough-

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rougher tearmes, which after his accusto-
med maner, is subscribed as followeth:

I. R. That is, *Iacobus Rex.*

Which wordes vttered in Scottish after
this sorte, if the Chaplaine shall goe about
to misconstrue, or wrangle from this his
true meaning, his M. hath faithfully pro-
mised to giue him such a categoricke, and
simple answer by a plain lie in round eng-
lish, as shall make him, and al his maintai-
ners in this cause, to be ashamed that euer
they medled with this matter. Thus god
recompenseth the foolish, while hee ma-
keth deceite to returne into the harte of
them that forge euil.

And touchinge that trutheles T V R I-
N V S, of whome the Chaplain had the pa-
terne of this pagean: he is presently as far
out of his maiesties fauour (let the Bisho-
pists of England trust the intelligence gi-
uen by him to them of the contrary, so
much as they list) as euer before he seemed
to be in it. But whether he shal receaue the
like recompense in the end, that that his
predecessor did, at the handes of that
worthy emperor Alexander Seuerus, while
being fastened to a stake, the cryer stoode
thus crying to the people, smoke he solde,
and

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and with smoke he is punished, it resteth to his maiesties discretion to consider.

But yet I thinke that soe the Chaplaine will not let goe his holde: but wil alledge that in noe wise hee is to bee blamed for building vpon the testimony of this his author, in that declaration at least (what euer the man be otherwise) seeing, so publickly & vniuersally, in a maner, it was receiued by many of his betters, for the K. owne declaratiō, in so much, y' it was printed again, & reprinted with a most odious preface at London, without any controlement, in so far as it cōcerned vs, red, & remarked diligētly by many, & vigilantly insinuated to the view of som chief personages of the state, who were made so to like of it, & to thinke it to be of truth, like to som new gospel, that som, not of the most inferior of such, whoe are called children of the most high amonge them, haue not spared, as we heare, to take boldnes therby of late, in their publict Iudiciary trials reprochfully, to vpbraid our countrimen, in the persons of such as were tried before them, comparing them to Scottish men, who when the K. proclaimed a feast, wold needes haue a fast, or contrariwise, when the

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the K. wold haue a feast, they proclaimed a fast, alluding to that false narration, touching the banketting of the French Ambassador, set downe in that counterfeit declaration. And last of al, for the perpetual triumphing memory thereof against vs, it was insert, worde for worde, in the Chronicle of England, cōpiled by HOLIN-SHED, and published to the posteritie in print. To the which I answer, that as the multitude of offenders authoriseth not an errour: so he shoulde not haue followed a multitude to doe euill, much lesse shoulde hee haue added euil to euil, and done worse then any that went before him: but before the publishing of so waigthy a matter after such a maner, hee shoulde without partiality haue examined the truthe of the thing to the bottome: and not otherwise so impotentlye haue suffered him selfe, to haue bene caryed away through the apish Imitation of men, perfittly knowne to him to be partially affected in this case: yea, and to speake further, howbeit the most part of the things contained in that slanderous libel, after due trial, had bin founde true, yet charity would rather haue buried, euen, the multitude

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titude of sins, then so bitterly haue blow'n abroad some ouersights, to the reproch of a whole reformed church. What could the veriest Papist of them al haue done more?

But what should be said to a bellie that hath no eares, that poore D E M A S (if he be no worse) hunting appearantly for promotion to some Prelacie (as the manner is) is so incorporate with that compa-
nie of climers to preferment (as they call it) and imbracers of this present worlde, that he is as corrupt, & partial in this case, as the proudest of them : so that of one, ye may learne all: Otherwise, if there had bene but a sponke of sincere judgement in him .: as worthelie hee might haue sus-
pected that marueilous heape of most hor-
rible accusations, to haue bene incredible in a Churche, namely, where so long the truth hath beene sincerely preached and professed: So, he needed not to thinke it a-
ny strange or new thing, for crafty miscre-
ants, hauiug credit in Court, and church, to finde the meanes many times, to abuse the naines of Princes and excellent men:
yea, and of God himselfe, as cloakes to couer their diuelish, and naughty deuises. Whereof, let these examples be witnessies,

to

against the Church of Scotland.

rowit, of I O A B, I E S A B E L, H A M A N,
G E H A S I, the old Prophet of Bethel, and
all the false Prophets, false Apostles, and
false teachers that euer spake, or speak the
vision of their owne heart, and not out of
the mouth of the Lord : and who ran and
runne when the Lord hath not sent them.

And last, touching the printing againe
and reprinting of that forged declaration
at London, and ioyning it to the chronicle
of England, where through some, whome
the Lorde hath called Gods, thinking all
cock sure, take occasion of vpbraiding the
Ministerie of our Countrie when it plea-
seth them: As these shall die ignominious-
ly like men, except they repent : So, what
honour those haue procured thereby to
their Country, & what credit to the chrono-
nicle therof, let them brag of it, when the
vprightnes of our cause sufficiently clea-
red by this and the like writings, shall iu-
stifie it selfe to their faces, and the true
storie thereof, that shall remaine registred
to all posterities, shall witnesse the honesty
and duetifull dealing of our Church in al
things, to their shame.

Thus much then being spoken, touch-
ing the former of the Chaplains two wit-
nesses:

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R. Browne

nesses : let vs nowe come to the other, his
inconstant Countrey-man (as hee descri-
beth him, for as for mee, hee shall bee no
woorse, then he himselfe maketh him) the
naming of whome, belike, might doe his
cause more harme, then his testimony can
doe it good, and therefore he contenteth
him self, with a very slender description of
him: so that not without a note of reproch
in the end he sendes him packing in these
wordes following . This mans opinion
heerein (saith he) I knowe wilbe greatly
contemned, because I thinke hee hath bin
of an other judgement, &c. Howebeit let
him finde what fauour at their handes he
shall: I must indeede confess, that if this
matter had onely depended vpon his re-
port or opinion: I would not at this time
haue made mention of him. Wherby you
see what a wethercock he maketh of him,
and howe rediculously he leaueth him, to
beg credite where hee may finde it, for he
can giue him none. Here I omitt to make
mention of the Iar, that is fallen out since
betweene our Chapleine , and his subor-
ned witnes, for that, that vpon no fair pro-
mise of recompense, hee coulde procure
newe furniture at his hands, of some more
parti-

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particular matter against the newe onset, that with long preparation he hath intended against vs: Seeing then, that no mans pen nor tong can more discredite this his second witnes, then he doth him self (partly by the wordes aboue rehearsed, & partly by the D. words following in his declamation, where he flatly again maketh him to be of a changeable humor.) If he drink no better by his meanes, then hee hath brewed, let him blame himself, vnderstanding that euil aduise is worst to the aduiser: I will not speake at this time of the shameles falsehoode that is alleadged out of the testimonye it selfe, which whensoeuer it shalbe particularly examined, will make the D. repent that euer hee cited such a testimony, & specially, where most impudently it is affirmed, that hee hath knowne the Kinge in greate danger, and feare of his life by their lordly Discipline, the contrary whereof, as it is cleerely knownen to al the worthie persons, Ambassadors of England, who haue had their long residence here amonge vs, and priuate intelligence of al our affaires, after an other manner, then euer his wandring witnesse coulde attaine vnto: so is it many wayes

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affirmed by the K. himselfe, and daylie
experience, God be praised, doth confirm
the same.

Both the Chaplaines authors then, be-
ing such prettie fellowes, as hath bin de-
clared, I trust it be not hard to bee seene,
how little credit is to bee giuen to his de-
clamation, grounded vpon their railing
reports (to leaue the demonstration of the
falshood of the matter vttered by them, to
the owne time and place.) For he shoulde
haue considered, that of how little credit
soeuer he was himselfe, yet it behoued his
witnesses to be free of infamy, according
to the saying, a Proctor may be infamous,
but not a witnes. But it seemeth, that ei-
ther he was not greatly careful of his own
name, who would repose vpon the crac-
ked credits of such defamed persons, in so
waughty a matter, or els he thought (as
CYGES did, by means of his ring) to walke
inuisible, as in a cloud, that none could or
would espy his nakednes. But good man,
he is far deceiued, as by the answere to his
seuerall asleuerations (if neede be) more
throughly & sensibly he shall vnderstand.

It is easie then to be seene, how far short
the Chaplaine hath come in probation of
the

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the alleadged treasonable outlandish practises, of men of the new gouernment (as scoffingly he calleth the vrgers of Reformation) whereof he would seeme to take such feare, that except good order be taken to preuent the like at hoame, thinges will grow to some extremities, pag. of his booke 83. And therfore I trust the Q. M. and her honorable Councell, will see this surmised proposition of danger of outlandish practises, by the meanes of Christian Discipline, to be somwhat better proued, before they will feare any danger to insue to their state through the same: yea, and I thinke, if they knew, but euен so much, as heere truly I haue set downe to you(Sir) in this short discourse, touching this matter, as the cause of christian disciplin shuld euен be the better liked of them all, seing it, & the fauorers of it, to be so shamefully belied: So the D. patrons in this case, shuld pride themselues but a little, of that slanderous declamation, & thinke them and their cause but smally beholden vnto it, what euer hath bene their opinion therof before.

For let any wise man iudge, if one eg can be more like another, then the D. maner

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of reasoning is to that forme: that REHVM
SHIMSHAI, & the rest of themé bejond the
riuer, vſed in a letter to K. ARTAHSHASH-
TE, for hindering the building of Ierusa-
lem, EZ. 4. saue only, that the iudgemēt of
them beyond the riuver, was found to be in
the authentik bokes of the chronicles, ac-
cording as was alleadged by them: & our
chaplains argumēt leaneth only vpon the
counterfeit, & forged chartales of known
and confessed infamous persons, & a false
Chronicle grounded thereupon. Where-
fore, if their authentike books of Chroni-
cles, did not truly conuince Ierusalem to
be a rebellious citie to kings and prouin-
ces, of what force should this Chaplaines
infamous libel be (I pray you) against the
good brethren of England, to proue that
they will be rebellious to their Princes, if
that christiā disciplin be admitted to haue
place within that land? For as Ierusalem
was not a rebellious citie to kings & prouin-
ces indeed, howbeit the books of their
Chronicles did beare so: So the exercisers
of christian discipline in Scotland, are not
necessarily to be accounted rebellious to
the K. for exercising of the same, howbe-
it, the bookeſ of the register of the acts of
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Scotland did containe the same. Howe much lesse then, ought false surmised forgeries of known infamous men haue credite in that case?

And if the enuy of the sect of the Nazarites vrged by prophane TERTULLVS, is not sufficient to beare downe PAVLE, as a seditious mouer of the people, because he professed, preached, and followed Iesus of Nazaret, whom the Iewes most iniustly & wickedly slew, as a seditious person, and blasphemer, by the meanes of two subborned false witnesses, Why shold the good brethren of England, that seeke reformation, be charged with a mind hereafter of sedition, by the meanes of Discipline, because the Church of Scotland, in respect of the same Discipline exercised in it, is vniustlie condemned of sedition, by the hie Priests of our daies, two false witnesses being alleaged for that purpose, by their TERTULLVS at Pauls Crosse? I see no reason why they shold. Let not the comparison be odious, because, I compare not the persons in themselues, but in the causes, which haue their own likenes & agreement in some proportion. I haue insisted the more in this matter, bicaus, your cause

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and ours, are most neer linked togeather. For the aduersaries would terrifie her M. frō admitting of christian discipline with- in her realm, for fear of like inconueniences to fal out therby to her quiet gouern- mēt, which are falsly alledged to haue fal- lē out by the same, to our K. & state. How be it, it be not good logicke, to charge the good cause of discipline, with any infamy, by reason of the faults of the Ministers & fauourers thereof, yea, euен put case they were sufficiently proued, seeing that is but a sophisine from the person to the cause, (as they say) How much lesle then, ought it to be condemned, when the aduersaries ar not able, do their best, to blot euен the persons, by accusing of whom, they labor to cōdemne the cause. But I perswade my selfe, that all this their paralogizing, and false maner of reasoning shal helpe them, and hurt vs as little in the ende, as the so- phistry of REHVM and his companions be- yond the riuer, helped their cause, & hindred the bulding of the Temple: & as the smooth Rhetorickē of TERTVLLVS, pre- uailed not against P A V L E, no more shall their course alwaies preuaile against the good cause in Englaunde. Wherfore, let

HAG-

against the Church of Scotland.

GAI and ZACHARIAS do their parts faithfully, and without fainting, exhort al men according to their callings, to further this holy building, not doubting, but God in his time, shall mooue DARIUS fully to authorise the building of Ierusalem: howbeit, through the injury of these daies, men may bee forced to leaue of building for a season: And let PAUL stand stoutly to the defence of his iust cause, saying confidently: Neither can they prooue the thinges, whereof now they accuse me. Act. 24. 13. And TERTULLVS, & his maintainers shall finde themselues disappointed, and PAUL by little, and little, shal grow to some greater liberty, and his cause shall preuaile in the end.

But nowe let vs come, accordinge to your desire, to the causes why that declamation of D. BANCROFTS, so far as concerning Scotland, is not answered, wherein howbeit I am not to prejudge the church of Scotland, yet for your further satisfaction, I haue thought good to set downe the causes of the delay, so far as euer I coulde learn or perceiue. And first you may be assured that it was not for lacke of habilitie in the meanest of a thousand in Scotland

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to haue confuted that calūnious chartale, fraughted with as many lyes almost, as it hath lines, that it was not answered: howsoeuer it pleaseth som of your grand DD.

I. W.

I. C. (very learned men, ye may be sure, if they be not far deceived) reprochefully to point out some of our wel approoued brethren, and especially one, by the note, of like an vnlearned, yea then, a very vnlearned Scot: Whome yet notwithstanding they neuer hard nor sawe, more then D. BANCROFT did heare and see the Church of Scotland, and the things wherewith most rashly hee doth charge it: but who is so bold, as they say, as blind bayard. Yet if any ARISTARCHVS among them, hath taken occasion of the writing of anye brother here, so to speake, let it bee judged by the learned, what iust cause he had so to do: & I doubt not, but he shalbe found to haue had little learning, and lesse conscience in so doing, which is spoken, not so much for the apology of any man at this time: as to note the disdainefull contempt of these hauty persons. For he must be of very rare learning, as not a few can beare me witnes, in whom this sort (for I speake not of all) of the generation of Bishopists will acknowledge

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ledge any learning to be, if once directlie and seriously, he oppone himselfe to their pride: For as there is nothing, wherin they commonly boast them selues more, then in the beard, & shew of learning: as thogh who forsooth but they onely: So is there no shaft that oftner flieth out of their bag against others, then the boult of lack learning. Howbeit, if it were not for auoiding of vncomly, and vnchristian rendering of reproch, for reproch, it were no hard matter shortly to decipher the profound science of those two especially, who were chief authors of that reproch, & to let the vnderstand, of what form & classe among the learned, learned men indeede, did euer esteeme them to bee, notwithstanding, all the windye volumes written by them: For *Scribimus indocti doctique, &c.* Howbeit, yet I deny not so much knowledge vnto them otherwise, as shall bee a witnes against them, if they vse it not better, & as might profit the Church in some measure, if they had grace to employ it to the right end.

But to returne to our purpose, as the answer was not delaied, for lacke of sufficient qualified men amongst vs for that, and

A profe of D. Bancroftis rafenes

& for a greater purpose, God be praised, if need be: so it was thought needless, & superfluous, here amongst our selues, where the truth of those things alledged in that Pamphlet were so clearly known, as there needed no other confutation of them, then the shamelesse impudencie of them-selues: And as for the answere, in respect of others, it was delaied first, as I take it, for auoiding of vnhappy contention, that is woont to arise vpon such occasions, wherby it might haue come to passe, that daungerous alteration might haue bene wrought betweene the two Realmes, as a godly and wise man of yours, commending the discretion of our me in that case, did not conceal, in a letter written to som of good account in our Countrey, not long ago. For the firebrand of selfeloue, and great ardency of men, in defending their owne sayings & doings whatsoeuer, suffereth the not many times, so much to regard the truth and peace of the church, as their own stincking estimation: whereof, there is too great proofe in manifolde lamentable examples, aswell of antiquity, as of our own daies, both far and neer, to the timely admonition of vs all, if aduisedly

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sedly we consider of the counsaile of gods spirite, saying : The beginning of strife, is as one that openeth the waters, therefore or the contention be meddled with, leaue off : Which howbeit more fitly, it may be applied to the aduersaries (in this case) the persuers then to our Church , yet no man I trust , can blame the Ministerie of Scotland, to regard it greatly, so long as there is any hope that the truth, and their innocencie may be in faftie without their answere: otherwise, they are not ignorant, that, there is no les danger, alwaies to keep silence, then neuer, as **HILARIE** speaketh.

Secondly, the answere was deferred, as I take it, in hope of due redresse to be put to that offence by the **Q. M.** and her Honourable Counsaile , who our men thought (as they thinke yet) esteemed so of their friendship, that they wold not suffer them to lie vnder any opprobrie vremooued, so farre as lay in them, neither would suffer them to receiue any iniurie vncorrected, at the hands of any whome they might command : For there are not many years past, since it plesed her **M.** not without signification of a thankful mind, by her letters, to acknowledge the Ministers

A prooфе of D. Bancrofts rashnes

sters of Scotlād by name, to be hir most lo-
uing & trusty frends in Christ (as yet God
be praised they cōtinue to this day, which
is not vnknown to her M. & faithful coun-
sellers) in regard whereof, they yet expect
the due amendment of that wrong, and
that so much the more, as they haue bene
put in hope thereof, from thence by writ,
purposly written to that effect, from some
great personages, who, howbeit nowe
they rest from their labours (to the no
small forewarning of the present state of
Englande, if the matter be well marked)
yet our men think, that they shal not lack
such fauour in that Counsaile, as shal pro-
cure redresse of that iniury in due season,
in respect of the good opinion they vnder-
stande (and that euен by writ of late)
her Majestie and Counsaile, yet retaine of
the Ministery of Scotland, & their christi-
an friendship toward them, & that estate.

Thirdly and last, a secret bridle of God
(who ruleth the actions of men according
to the dispensation of his prouidēce) stai-
ed the from answering, for causes known
only to himselfe, as they so sensiblie in a
manner haue perceived (especially they,
who were priuie to the matter) that the
know-

against the Church of Scotland.

knowledge thereof, may sufficiently satisfie the minde of any modest man, who wil acknowledge the prouident dispensation of God to be such, as howsoeuer the heart of man purposeth his waye, yet the Lord doth direct his steps.

This much I thought meet (good Sir) to impart vnto you, touching the dangerous rashnes of D. BANCROFT, in flandering our whole Church so vnauidisely, after such a publicke manner, and that vpon the naked reportes, of two such infamous witnessses (partlye, by manifest demonstration of trecherous dealing in one of them, and partly by his owne confessiōn, touching the other) as are not to haue credite against any particular Christian, much les, against a whole Church, a King, and a Realme: As also touching the causes of the deferring of the answere thereto, so far as I vnderstand, which things, if they were kown to the D. and his complices, (but euen as heere rudely they are set downe) they might peraduenture let them haue experience (which is a fooles, though not a foolishe maister) that they haue run to far headlong into these flanderingous and new deuises: and so hearafter might

A proofe of Dr. Bancroftis rashnes

might learne more aduisedly and charitabile, to deale with their neighbours and brethren, who haue deserued no suche things at their hands: Yea, it is very like, if these same things were read, or summarily and shortly reported in her Majesties hearing, either by your selfe, or som other good Christian, who hath credite and fauour about her royll person (For alack good princesse, the trew report of things, especially in these & the like maters, commeth seldome to her eares, a common calamitie of princes, whoe commonly of all others in the world, are most destitute of faithful persons aboue them, trewlie and without flattery to informe them of the truth of matters as they are in deede.) If these things, I say, were truly known to her M. I surely perswade my selfe, that those lordly brethren of DIO TREPHEs, who rule or rather tyrannise aboue their brethren with violence & cruelty, should be quickly charmed from authorising such rash libertie of publicke rayling, and defaming of a whol neighbour church, which alway hath so well deserued of the present state of Englande, and their proude hornes should be hastedly hamered downe, that

against the Church of Scotland.

that they should not be able hereafter, to thrust with side and shoulder, and push all the weake with their hornes, til they haue scattered them abroad, and to make such hauocke of the Churche, by a disguised persecution, as presently they doe: Yea this much at least, I doubt not shoulde be graunted, that (all bitter invection and persecuting of the good brethren of England, that are of the same judgment with vs, surceassing) the controuersie should be decided by the word of God in a lawfull assemblie, and brotherlie conference, appointed by the supreme Magistrates to that effect: Otherwise, if this come not to passe (which God forbid) as we must not cease to commend the troubled estate of those our christian brethren, to God in our priuate and publicke praiers, so must we not leaue the iust defence of our honest cause of Christian Discipline, which (touching the substance thercof, whiche chiefly is in controuersie) hath no les warrand to be continued perpetually within the Church, vnder this precept of Christ, feede my sheepe, then hath the preaching of the worde, and ministration of the Sacraments, and so consequently floweth

A louing
challenge of
disputation,

A proofe of D. Bancroft's rashnes

no more from the authoritie of the Ciuell
Magistrate then they doe, whateuer for-
mall professours in worde , but not ad-
mitters of the yoake of Christ on their
neks indeed, cry out to the contrary. This
much (good Sir) I thought good by writ
to answere to your letter, after this man-
ner, here before set downe, both to satisfie
you and others, touching this matter in
some measure, which if it shall seeme good
to you, ye, either by your selfe, or by some
other, may briefly impart vnto her

M. Farewell, from Edin. the

18. of September.

1590.

Yours in the Lord. I. D.

